COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

To open binder, remove the slides from fasteners raise the fasteners to an erect position and then file papers. For punching: lay the papers on covers and mark sheets to correspond with fasteners.

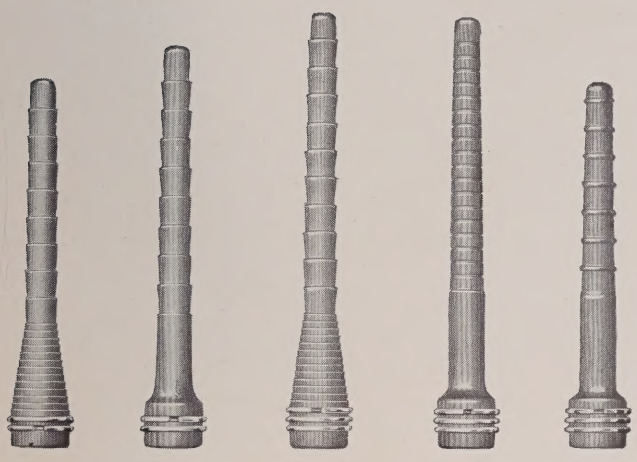
If DUPLICATE is wanted ORDER 25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the secretary of the
DRAPER COMPANY,
HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 50. MAY, 1906.



NORTHROP PATENT BOBBINS.

It may not be generally known that we are now fully equipped to manufacture bobbins for our Northrop looms; in fact, have furnished them to the trade in large quantities for several months. The bobbins used with our looms are a patented article, and have always been sold directly by us to our customers, although manufactured for us elsewhere. We believe it better for our customers and ourselves to control the manufacture of this product so as to ensure more prompt filling of orders, and have personal knowledge of the difficulties which arise in meeting the conditions. We anticipated this course several years ago by buying large orders of bobbin blanks, so that we could have them properly seasoned in advance. We next decided to experiment in the line of using new and improved tools for the accurate cutting of the wood into shape, and we believe that our present plant is absolutely original in the methods employed. Most of the machinery has been built, or built over, in our own works. We intend to establish the highest possible reputation for these products, and shall spare no expense to arrive at this end. We have arranged our seasoning so as to always

have plenty of proper stock ahead of the machines. The illustration shows a few styles of bobbins now being manufactured, picked out at random from orders going through.

All bobbins are tested on spindles before shipment. We make bobbins to fit all the regular trade spindles, and the testing process has given us much interesting information regarding the spindles themselves. No bobbin is absolutely perfect, but spindles are constituted so as to accommodate themselves to minor imperfections in the bobbin. Without going into detailed comparison, we may say with certainty that the Draper spindle accommodates itself with greater ease to variations in bobbin conformation than any other that we know. This does not signify that we shall work off more poor bobbins on the users of Draper spindles, but it does mean that the users of Draper spindles will have better running bobbins as a whole, in spite of the changes occurring in the bobbins themselves after they are sold.

FINE FILLING.

It is always difficult to eradicate early impressions. When we started the introduction of the Northrop loom over ten years ago, we confined ourselves to prints and sheetings, using bobbin filling and 2-harness equipment. Many still think we are limited to medium or coarse filling, plain goods, and the use of bobbins rather than cops. I was in a weave room recently, however, in which over 800 Northrop looms were using cop filling, and none of the looms running with coarser than 50s warp or 60s filling. Most of the yarn was of much finer grades, running as high as 140s filling and 100s warp. One Northrop loom was equipped with a jacquard and several with dobbies. Some of the looms ran very difficult weaves, having but 72 picks of 120s filling per inch. The percentage of seconds was very low. The weavers were running from 12 to 16 looms each.

This is only one instance of such weaving. We have hundreds of Northrop looms with jacquard motions, and thousands with dobbies. Our latest looms are better fitted for fine goods than ever before, as we have taken advantage of the experience gained by the continuous sales and the spreading use of the Northrop devices.

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LOOMS PER WEAVER.

Although we started several thousand Northrop looms in 1895, of which a weaver easily ran 16, there are still skeptics who do not understand, and will not believe, the truth of the situation. An unknown English writer to the "Cotton Factory Times" was recently quoted in an American trade paper as saying: "*American Northrop weavers are said (on American authority) to attend anything from eight to thirty-two.*" The average reader would suspect that the writer distinguished between American authority and other authority; but we have a few clippings from English papers which give English authority on the subject, if American authority be not sufficient. I find in my scrap book that the "Blackburn Weekly Telegraph" for March 29, 1902, in an article headed, "*What a Burnley Man Saw in the States*," stated: "*From what he saw, an average weaver would run 16 looms.*" In the "Manchester Guardian" for June 4, 1902, their special English correspondent wrote from America as follows:

"*For the 2000 Northrop looms which cover the rest of the floor there are 134 weavers—a number which I verified by counting the names in the overseer's wage book. Some of the weavers are running 20 40-inch Northrop looms each, others 16, and a number of learners have 12 each.*"

In his ninth letter to the same paper the same correspondent states:

"*In one of the weaving-rooms here I found 100 Northrop looms, all run by men, each of whom, I was told, could earn about 42 shillings a week with twenty looms.*"

In his thirteenth letter he stated:

"*One man, who was running 24 looms, told me that he could earn $1.35 a day.*"

In his fourteenth letter he stated:

"*Many of the weavers were little more than learners, and had not more than ten or twelve looms; others with more experience had twice as many.*"

In his twenty-fifth letter he stated:

"*One weaver often runs more than twenty looms in the United States.*"

In the "Blackburn Daily Telegraph" for Oct. 24, 1902, a returned Englishman stated:

"I saw weavers operating 12 to 24 looms, and in one case 27 looms on print cloth."

A Mr. W. Turner, in "The Lancashire Post," during 1902 stated:

"I saw one weaver with 26 looms."

A correspondent for "The Birmingham Daily Post" stated:

"A good weaver can look after 20 looms."

I could undoubtedly find plenty more foreign authority, if the above did not seem sufficient. Bear in mind **that this evidence does not refer to cases where the weavers are assisted by extra help to fill the hoppers.** In such cases they sometimes run 40 looms. I have personally seen two 32-loom weavers who had no helpers; and my visits to Northrop loom mills are quite infrequent. Back in 1899 the "Textile Excelsior" for Feb. 18 referred to a definite instance of a woman weaver running 30 Northrop looms, and producing 97.86 per-cent. of possible product. If the users of our looms were content with the per-cent. of product that a common loom gives, the Northrop loom weavers could run considerably more than they do.

We have heard of comparisons made between our loom and other automatic looms that were assumed to be running with as many looms to the weaver as our own. Investigation showed, however, that the weavers on both sets of looms did nothing but mend warp and take off cloth, the filling of hoppers or shuttles being done by extra help. There was just one-half the labor cost for replenishing filling on our looms; and, as a matter of fact, the weavers were also paid less.

The comparison of rival automatic looms will not be settled by comparison with single looms, or single sets of looms. When any other automatic loom has been sold in sufficient quantity to fill a weave room, and has run sufficiently long to accurately determine the cost of labor, the percentage of product, and the durability of the mechanism, we shall be interested to know the results. There is no secrecy regarding our own loom. We advertise where we sell them, and we publish information concerning them whenever it can be made public with the consent of the mills which use them. It is interesting in this connection to note that we have one law-suit already in progress against a claimed infringer, and have recently entered another.